

GOLD NOTES Fourth Quarter 2017

Thanks so much to all who helped make our presentation possible at the Atlanta ADGA Convention last month. It was a great time of meeting new goat folks, sharing about our Guernseys and at the same time raising money to promote this breed! It was a resounding success, and all because we worked together.

With the convention behind us there are many things that we will be working on. Encouraging others to join is a benefit to all. In looking at what will be required of our breed to gain the status that we want with ADGA we need breeders to show. If we are working on this now, we will be prepared when the time comes that showing will really count. The GGBOA Virtual Show that will be next year is a great way to learn what needs to be done to prepare your Guernseys for show. Sara wrote about fitting for the Guernsey goats in the last Gold Notes, so pay attention to the directions and if you have any questions, let us know!!

We are working out ways that we can help our members promote their farms, goats and products and we hope to be able to share that with you soon. This will help us to have all the information about our goats online. Goatzz is the company we are working with. Sara will keep us updated.

The T-shirts and show polo shirts are items that we are using for promotions and hope that everyone will take advantage of them. Let us know you want one and it will be on its way! The T shirts are \$15 +\$5 for S&H. The polo shirts are \$20+\$5 for S&H (only have M left).

Now is the time when we are all busy with our herds and getting the does bred. Along with that we all need to be preparing for the milking - as in signing up for DHI. As Michael Naumes pointed out in our last Gold Notes, these reports provide invaluable information to make significant decisions for the future.

And last, but not least, plan to go to the next ADGA Convention in Bloomington, Mn. Yes, it will likely be cold, but there will be plenty of warm fellowship and lots to learn! Our annual meeting will be during that week. In Austin, we had 3 members present. In Atlanta there were 5 with 2 interested potential members, so let's make a goal to have 10 members there in 2018!

As we approach this holiday season, we pray that all will have special times with family and friends. As we are caring for all our critters out in the cold, remember the critters that were there for the birth of Jesus and the gift that was given to us!

Holiday Prayers!

Respectfully,

Gloria B Andrews, DVM

President GGBOA



A Parasite Protection Program for Your Goats

You do everything you can to keep your herd well fed, protected from predators and safe. These are things that you can see, but there is an even more important thing that you need to do to protect your goats. Make certain that you have a plan to monitor and treat for intestinal parasites.

Your plan will depend much on how many goats you have and how much space is available for them. Farms that are not limited by pasture sizes may be easier to manage because the population density of the goats is much less. As the population density increases, so does the management that is needed to monitor your herd. The

“old school” deworming programs are now gone by the wayside, much because of parasite resistance to the dewormers that we have, so wipe out all those ideas of deworming all the herd every six months and let's look at what you need to be doing.

Any successful program is going to be “multi-faceted”. Look at every way to help. There is not enough space to cover everything, but you can go to [/attra.ncat.org](http://attra.ncat.org) or wormx.info and get all the information you need. Now, how to start implementing your program.

First, learn about FAMACHA . Go to <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/famacha> . This is the most important weapon that we have to monitor the Barber Pole worm that is the deadliest bloodsucker in goats. After making a list of your goats, mark next to each goat's name what the FAMACHA score is (ideal is 1, but 2 and 3 are ok, 4 and 5 they need HELP). Once this is done, then stand back and look at each goat individually. Are any unthrifty? Losing weight? Have pasty butts? Anything else that does not seem right? Check these animals on your list. Next separate them out so that you can get fecal samples on them. If you can do individual samples, great, but you can also take a sample that is mixed together, or maybe based on condition you can group them together and get a sample from each group. Now you need to find a laboratory that can run the fecals for you. You can look at this website to find a place that can run the samples for you (www.wormx.info/feclabs). The test run is a McMasters egg count and this will report back to you what parasite eggs are found and in what numbers.

“Fecal egg counting is a method to determine the number of worm eggs excreted per gram of feces (EPG). Fecal egg counts (FECs) have many uses in parasite control programs. They can be used to estimate the parasite load in an animal, show changes in the seasonal levels of pasture infection, determine effectiveness of dewormers, and evaluate genetic differences in animals.” (from wormx.info).

When you get the results back you need to do more research. There are lots of things to consider for the interpretation of the fecal. What season is it – of the stomach worms, the Barber Pole worm sheds the greatest number of eggs and this is dependent on the weather. So you need to look at life cycles of the different worms as well. Read to educate yourself. Utilize professionals around you-small ruminant veterinarians, extension personnel and other successful goat folks. Determine what goats should be treated and then, again, do your research. We have available three different families of dewormers, and, at this time it is recommended to treat the goats that need it with a dewormer from each family. So you will be giving any goat that needs treatment three different dewormers at once. Do your planning, talk and read. Prior to deworming, get a weight estimate (a weight tape is good) on each goat and make certain that you deworm using an appropriate dose. Don't underdose as this is the easiest way the worms become resistant.

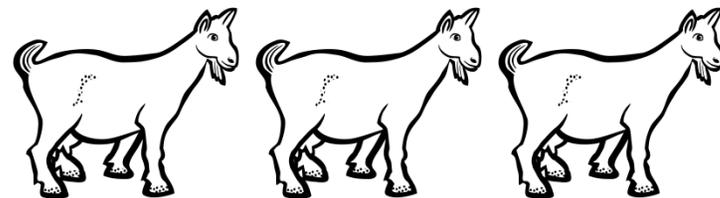
When you are ready to treat, take the goats that are to be treated and fast them (yes, no food the night before) as this gives the dewormers better contact time with the parasites.

Keep records of everything because this is the only way you can go back and check to see how your program is doing.

So after the deworming is done, it is helpful to take more samples after a couple of weeks to see how the deworming has impacted the egg count. This will help you to understand if the parasites are resistant to the dewormers you have used and what you need to do for future dewormings.

Everything has changed. It is never recommended to totally deworm every goat on the property .We actually want a small number of non-resistant parasites to be present. This concept, “refugia” is a very important concept to understand. We do not want to assist in the creation of “super parasites”.

This is just the basic starter plan. Certain types of forages, rotational pasture plans, pasture vacuuming, copper boluses, pasture rotation and many other practices can be implemented to help you protect your goats. It is a matter of learning and following through. With all of the resources available, read and ask questions so that you can do the best for your herd.



Why ADGA?

We all love our Guernseys! They are quiet, docile, easy to keep, give great milk and enable us to make great cheese products and are very personable. These are qualities we all admire, but really the only reason we have them is for their milk. They are a dairy breed and that is what having a dairy goat is all about – for them to produce. You ask why the GGBoA sought acceptance by the ADGA and that is why. We want to be able to utilize the programs that ADGA has available for their membership to help us breed for better goats conformationally (function follows form) and for increased production. ADGA has programs that would not be available to us otherwise.

We have been recommending DHIR and that is a great way to know what your does produce (quantity and composition), as well as monitoring udder health (SSC). But when goats are registered through ADGA, the results from DHIR are shared to the registered goat's file. Production, composition and all sorts of information are tracked for you so you can use this information to make decisions about breeding.

Then there is Linear Appraisal. The first year I was in ADGA, I audited the LA class and was totally blown away. We all have our goats and think we understand what we have, but having an objective critique of your goats by an uninvolved party brings to your attention what you REALLY have and what you need to improve on. The LA program is extremely popular because it gives all the producers the ability to have

this done. This is the most critical piece of information that you can have on all of your breeding stock. Linear Appraisal will help you to make decisions about culling and what bucks would be best for your does. No ADGA registration – no LA.

Showing our Guernseys is another issue. Why does any breeder show? So they can learn what else is out there and how their stock compares with other herds. It is all part of the improvement process. It is not about “keeping up with the Joneses”. It is about facing reality and helping the breeder plan where they need to direct their breeding program. It also will give us the opportunity to see what breeders are trying to change the breed. GGBOA idealism is to stay true to what the Guernsey goats are.

Showing is also a big excuse to get out there and show our Guernseys to the public. At the Gwinnet County Fair I spoke with lots of folks, some goat people who were really interested and who may be looking for their own Guernseys along with city residents who did not know Guernsey goats existed. Shows educate us and help us to educate others. What could be better? Earning a championship for your goats tells you that you are doing things right. Keep it up! Now we are spinning our wheels and are sponsoring the 2018 Virtual Show, but it is so different to be at the show with the goats in hand. We need to be able to show and the ADGA has this available once the herd book is transferred.

There are special honors also through ADGA where superior goats are awarded. These honors are another way to get recognition for a spectacular job. More goals to attain.

As with any relationship or agreement there always is compromise. We do not like to admit it, but for anything we want, there is always something that we must give up. GGBOA in applying for ADGA acceptance understood that. The decision by the members of GGBOA was unanimous to do this. They realized the importance that acceptance brings. Most everything we do have control of. The few areas that were compromised were areas that would be absolutely impossible for us to maintain eventually anyway. With ADGA we can check pedigrees and determine heritage. DNA is available as well. In regards to this, it is each breeder's choice to maintain what they feel is best. We hope that every Guernsey breeder will follow as closely as possible the original standards set forth and keep true to the Guernsey goat breed. For those who stray from this, it is up to the rest of us to stand firm.

As the GGBOA President, I encourage every Guernsey goat breeder as well as those interested in Guernseys to visit ADGA.org and see for yourself all the benefits that will be available to us.

The most important concept that any of us can have is that GGBOA is all about the Guernsey goat in America and how we can best bring the breed to a higher level both of production and of acceptance. ADGA will do that for us.

Below is a sample set of photos to guide you as you plan for the 2018 Virtual Show.

GGBOA VIRTUAL SHOW

SAMPLE PHOTOS OF REQUIRED ANGLES
All classes require photos of top, right, left, front, and rear.



TOP - Standing behind the goat, take a picture of the goat's topline view



RIGHT - Full right side, level with goat, not from above



LEFT - Full left side, level with goat, not from above



FRONT - level with the goat



REAR - level with the goat

Additionally, milking doe classes require photos of rear udder and fore udder.



FORE UDDER



REAR UDDER